

SPRING 2016

C O U R A G E ★ L O Y A L T Y ★ H O N O R



# WE WERE ALL ONCE RABBITS

OMA ALUMNI REUNION 2016

PAGE 11

1948 OMA Rabbits

# FEATURES

Letter from the President	2
From Cheerleaders to Board Members	2
Letter From the Editor	3
Lost and Found	3
OMA Alumnus 'Paying it Forward'	4
It's Raqui's Birthday Celebration	4
Letter from Major General Kuehr	5
OMA Honorary Cadets Selected	5-9
OMA Alumni Association's 2016 President's Award Winners Announced	9-10
2016 OMA Alumni Reunion Agenda	11
Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program Remains on the Hill	12
An Invitation to Our Legacy	12
OMA Alumni Salute to Lt. General William E. Potts	13
Eisenhower Sculpture Given to the OMA Museum	14
Lodging Information for the Claremore Area	BACK

## OMA ALUMNI STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATED

The OMA Alumni Association Strategic plan was unanimously approved at our February 11, 2016 Board Meeting. This plan includes our Mission, Vision, and Goals for the Alumni Association.

The Strategic Planning Committee included Rob Frank '69 (Chair), Phil Goldfarb '69, Angel Beltran '66, Bill Harris '54, Bill Ramsay '61, Jim Elder '67, Mike Kuehr '68, Randy Vierling '63 and Dr. Danette Boyle, our Executive Director.

If you would like a copy, please call Danette Boyle at (918) 343-6888 or email her at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).

## DID YOU KNOW?

### OMA CADETS TO CLAREMORE MAYOR

Claremore holds a special place for many of us with the local girls, halfway edible food, the bowling alley, movie theater, bus station to Tulsa, fights with "townies" and a place where we could find Mr. Coors on occasion.

However, for three OMA cadets, it meant a lot more. There were three alumni who became the Mayor of Claremore. They were:

- **ELTINGE STREETER '20**, Mayor 1956-1958 (He was the first Corps Commander in 1919-1920 and became the very first President of the original Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association while the school was still in existence.)
- **DICK LEGATE '28**, Mayor 1961-1968
- **ELMO TANNER '35**, Mayor 1968-1969 (His brother was Elmer Tanner who was the OMA Dean of Students at one time.)

### RIFLES USED AT OMA

During the 52 years that OMA was in existence, the cadets only used two types of rifles. From 1919 to 1947, they trained with the Springfield 1903 and from 1947 until 1971, cadets used the M1 Garand.



## GUIDON

*GUIDON* is a newsletter published for alumni of Oklahoma Military Academy by the OMA Alumni Office at Rogers State University. Send correspondence and address corrections to: OMA Alumni Office, Rogers State University, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017-3252.

**Executive Director:** Danette Boyle, [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu), 918-343-6888, 918-381-8764

**Administrative Assistant:** Tammy Ryan

This publication is issued by Rogers State University. A total of 2,050 copies have been printed at a cost of \$1.40 each. Rogers State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures.

**Editor:** Dr. Danette Boyle

**Assistant Editor:** Tammy Ryan

**Designer:** Kate Northcutt

**Printed April 2016**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT “DON’T WAIT!!”



*Phil Goldfarb*

The school year 1970-1971 was the last time we “recognized” an Oklahoma Military Academy cadet. A high school freshman or Rabbit that year is now 59 years old. It is estimated that the average living OMA alumnus is 75 years old. Why am I saying all of this? Because one never knows when it will be the last time that you ever see an old roommate, old friend, old squad leader, fellow Rabbit, fellow band member,

fellow drill team member, an O Club, Chevron or Saber Society “brother” or some fellow alumni from another year that you have met at one of our reunions.

Therefore, my message for this Guidon is **DON’T WAIT!**

**DON’T WAIT** until a friend is gone.

**DON’T WAIT** until you are gone.

**DON’T WAIT** until you are too feeble or sick to attend a Reunion

**DON’T WAIT** until you say “I should have gone” or “I wish that I had gone.”

**DON’T WAIT** until the “next reunion” or “next year” because there might not be a next year!

If you have never been to a reunion...**DON’T WAIT!**

Come this June; it is not too late to register, and we promise you this reunion could be one of the best ever!

If you have only been to one or two reunions before...

**DON’T WAIT...REPORT TO THE HILL!**

It doesn’t matter if you attended OMA for one semester or six years. It doesn’t matter if you were a PFC or the Corps Commander. You are still recognized as an OMA Cadet and a member of the OMA Alumni Association!

If you need to find an old friend, please let either Danette Boyle or me know and we will make every effort to find them for you so you can once again meet on the Hill and play the “Remember When” game.

Your OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors have pulled out all the stops for this Reunion! **DON’T WAIT...REGISTER NOW!**

With Courage, Loyalty, and Honor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Goldfarb".

Phil Goldfarb HS '67, JC '69

OMA Alumni Association President

## FROM CHEERLEADERS TO BOARD MEMBERS

There were Oklahoma Military Academy cheerleaders on the Hill from 1962 until 1969. They led the cadets with cheers (many that cannot be repeated in this Guidon) and brought esprit d’corps to the Academy. Three of the cheerleaders are now serving the OMA Alumni Association as Board Members. Lining up in 2016 as they did in this 1969 picture are Ken Colley '69, Phil Goldfarb '69, and Rob Frank '69.



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

WOW! The 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion is less than two months away. I am so excited because this reunion will be the most fun ever! Can you imagine some of the Rabbit Tales that will be told on Friday evening at the reception? Can you imagine having the GRAND MARCH for the first time since 1971?

It will all happen at the West Point of the Southwest! It will all happen "On The Hill"! It will all happen on the most beautiful college campus in the entire southwest part of the United States. It will all happen where we have **BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL!**

Our Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Military students will be presenting the Color Guard and joining us for several of our activities. How great is that?

The budget cuts in Oklahoma have been very severe. However thanks to the extraordinary support and commitment of the OMA

Alumni, the GOLD Program at RSU will remain in the state with a reputation of excellence. This is another very important reason for you to **REPORT TO THE HILL** and celebrate our military students.

College Hill, home to OMA for 52 years, is so beautiful and very sentimental to you, me and thousands of students and visitors that come here. The memories are awesome. The Hill is your home away from home!!!

So OMA Alumni, Family and Friends: **REPORT TO THE HILL** on June 10 and 11.

Call me at 918-343-6888 or email me at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu) to register for this great reunion.

With Courage, Loyalty and Honor,

Danette Boyle

Executive Director, OMA Alumni Association

OMA Honorary Cadet

## LOST AND FOUND

### OMA ALUMNUS LOOKING FOR LOST GOULASH RECIPE

Gary Kirkendoll '63, looks back at his time at OMA with many fond memories. One thing he remembers was the "Goulash" served in the mess hall. It was one of his favorites!

Through the years Kirkendoll has tried to find a similar recipe but has been unsuccessful.

In an effort to help Kirkendoll, the first person to send this authentic recipe to Danette Boyle will receive a special OMA Alumni gift. *Remember you are on the OMA Honor System!*

### REPLACING YOUR OMA CLASS RING



Have you lost your OMA Class ring? You can replace it by contacting the OMA Alumni Office. Balfour Company will duplicate the ring. It will have the red stone and each one can have some engraving inside of it. Depending upon the price of gold and the ring you select, it can cost from the low amount of approximately \$700 to \$1,200 or more. Please contact Danette to get the special price.



### MOTHER'S WORRY HEARSE

OMA Cheerleaders drove this 1947 Hearse to the football games in the 60s. The OMA Alumni are interested in purchasing a similar one. Contact Danette Boyle with any information where a similar hearse can be found.

Contact Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or email [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu) with any information about any lost and found items.

## OMA ALUMNUS 'PAYING IT FORWARD'



OMA alumnus John Charles Owens '65, has established an estate gift to create scholarships at Rogers State University because he knows the power of "paying it forward."

"Many of us who attended OMA went to school on scholarships," Owens said. "Without the generosity of those who came before us, many of us would not have been able to have attended OMA. We benefited from those who 'paid it forward' for us. Now, it's our turn to do so."

A longtime Shawnee resident, Owens has provided substantial resources in his estate to establish a Scholarship Endowment in Business Administration.

Owens was not the only one in his family to benefit from scholarships, as his father and aunt received music

scholarships to attend the Missouri Military Academy and Oklahoma Baptist University, respectively. Owens said that with rising tuition costs because of declining state support for education, that it's "more important than ever" to help provide scholarship funding to help deserving men and women attend college.

While health issues have limited Owens recently, he still comes to all the Oklahoma City OMA mini-reunions and attends as many OMA reunions each June as he can. Owens has been a longtime motorcycle enthusiast; while he is no longer able to ride, he still serves as treasurer of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Chapter Oklahoma B. He had also served as Chief Pilot for the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office and currently serves as treasurer for the Shawnee Thunderbirds RC Club for those interested in radio-controlled aviation and helping raise awareness of aviation for area youth.

For information on how you can ensure the legacy of the Oklahoma Military Academy and establish a scholarship endowment with a gift now or as a part of your estate, please contact Danette Boyle, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association at 918-343-6888 or [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).



*Pictured: Danette Boyle, Raquel Ramsey and Neil Heeney from the University of Oklahoma.*



*Seated L to R: Aurora Cudal Rivera, Vivian Shannon and Danette Boyle. Standing: Judge Peter Rivera, Violet and Gil Mislang, Raquel Ramsey and Donald Plata, producer of "Forgotten Soldiers", the award winning documentary of the Philippine Scouts.*

## IT'S RAQUI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Raqui Ramsey honored her husband Colonel Ed Ramsey '37, and recently celebrated her birthday. In lieu of birthday gifts, the Colonel Ed Ramsey Scholarship Endowment established by Dr. Raquel Ramsey and the Ramsey and Ramirez families, for the RSU Gold Program, was the recipient of many contributions.

## LETTER FROM MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL A. KUEHR, US ARMY (RETIRED)



I am very honored having been selected again as the 2016 Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association adjutant for this year's annual reunion. Our reunion will not only be fun, but it will also underscore the tremendous financial support and significant leadership impact the OMA Alumni association has had on the Rogers State University GOLD Program and

its deserving students.

At the luncheon, you will hear first-hand, our Alumni Association's impact upon the individual lives of our GOLD students, as they continue the OMA legacy of Courage, Loyalty, and Honor. The GOLD student winner of the writing contest will read the winning paper detailing what our generosity has meant. We may not have stopped to think about it, but our contributions, whether large or small, have an exponential positive impact on the GOLD Program recipients. The impact is substantial, not only because of

the contribution amount, but also because of the emotional support and the spirit in which we contribute.

Your presence at this year's reunion is important for several reasons. You will be able to rekindle past acquaintances and emotionally re-live your days at OMA. Also, your presence is meaningful to your fellow attendees; you honor others by your presence, which demonstrates your commitment to continuing the spirit of the Oklahoma Military Academy and what it continues to represent. Even if you aren't enthusiastic about coming this year, please consider attending because of those who would like to see you and renew friendships. We all have experiences and stories that others would very much like to hear. OMA is not making any more graduates, and as time takes its toll on us all, please don't miss the opportunity to participate in such a meaningful event as this year's reunion.

I am certain there is someone coming to this year's reunion that you will want to see, and there will also be someone attending who will want to see you. The only way you will be disappointed is if you don't come.

---

## OMA HONORARY CADETS SELECTED

The newest individuals selected to become OMA Honorary Cadets were approved unanimously by the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors at their meeting on October 1. They will be recognized at the OMA Alumni Reunion luncheon on Saturday, June 11, 2016. It was decided by the Board they will not have to go through the Rabbit period.



**RON BOYLE** grew up in Independence, Kansas, where he attended kindergarten through 12th grade. He attended the University of Kansas but transferred to Pittsburg State University, where he graduated with a degree in accounting. Boyle later returned to KU and graduated from the Executive Management Program. Around this time he also received his Certified Public

Accountant (CPA) certification.

Boyle was part of the Kansas National Guard and served in Vietnam for a year. After returning home, he started working for the City Service Company in Bartlesville for his first job. After several years, he moved to Tulsa and worked

for Cities Service Company in its Executive Training Program for sixteen years and ended his last four years there as the Manager of Income Tax. He then went to work for Phillips Petroleum Company, which is now ConocoPhillips, where he worked in the International Tax Division and traveled extensively. He later worked in the State Tax Division.

In 1991, Boyle married Dr. Danette McNamara Boyle, Executive Director for the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Office. Since that time, he has been very involved in both OMA Alumni and Rogers State University events. He and Danette have generously given to support the OMA Alumni activities and Rogers State University. Boyle's favorite pastime is watching his Kansas Jayhawks play basketball. He has one daughter, and Ron and Danette have one son.



**SUE E. STIZZA HARRIS** moved to McAlester, Oklahoma, when she was four years old where she spent her elementary, junior high, and high school years. After high school, she attended two years of nursing training at St. John Hospital in Tulsa.

Sue married John B. Stizza in 1960 and had two children together, John G. and Cynthia R Stizza. Her husband, John B. Stizza, spent five years at Oklahoma Military Academy, in addition to graduating from the University of Oklahoma. He decided to make the Army a career. John B. was killed in Vietnam in January 1970, leaving Sue to raise their two children as a single mother.

Sue's son, John, graduated from the Air Force Academy and made the Air Force a career, retiring as a full Colonel. Her daughter, Cynthia, graduated from The University of Maryland. Sue has four grandchildren, including a granddaughter serving as a nurse in the Air Force and a grandson who is a U.S. Army Ranger.

Sue Stizza married Bill B. Harris, OMA class of 1954, in September 2008, and they live in Edmond, Oklahoma.



**MICHAEL HENRY** is the son of Gary Henry, a 1950 OMA graduate and 1996 Distinguished Alumnus. He continues the tradition and legacy of his father, with support and endowments for student scholarships at RSU. Henry is a past RSU Foundation Board member.

Michael Henry is the President of Keystone Chevrolet Inc. in Sand Springs, Oklahoma and the co-founder of Carter County Dodge Chrysler Jeep in Ardmore, Oklahoma and Carter County Hyundai, also located in Ardmore. The Henry family legacy in the automotive industry was started by Wat Henry in the 1930s and continued by Gary Henry until 1979 when Michael Henry stepped up to continue the tradition.

Michael Henry has served on numerous state and national boards and councils in the automotive industry including the National Automobile Dealers Association and the Oklahoma Automobile Dealers Association. He was one of the first Chevrolet dealers in Oklahoma to partner with Allstate Insurance to house a full service agency offering auto/home/life products inside the Keystone Chevrolet dealership, called Keystone Assurance.

In addition to his service on professional boards and councils, Henry is a longtime board member of The Tulsa Boy's Home, a supporter of Neighbors Along the Line, and a contributor to the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

Michael Henry has been married to his wife Carol for 28 years, and they spend their free time together enjoying the company of their two grandchildren.



**MARGARET FAYE GIDDENS INHOFE** was born on November 28, 1933 to Robert and Faye Giddens in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Margaret grew up in Tulsa and attended Tulsa Public Schools. One morning while attending Wilson Jr High, she caught the eye of Perry (Buddy) Inhofe. One look and he knew she was "the one" even at that young age, and the two later started dating.

When he left Tulsa to attend Oklahoma Military Academy, Margaret made many trips to Claremore to attend all of the OMA dances and any other OMA functions.

Margaret attended Oklahoma A&M while Buddy Inhofe was at the University of Tulsa. On March 28, 1952, with Buddy Inhofe's homemade birth certificate, they took off to Arkansas to get married. They first arrived in Rogers, Arkansas but the courthouse was closed and they could not get a license. They were told to go to Carroll County and that night they were married in Eureka Springs.

Margaret quit school immediately and started working. She insisted that her husband stay in school. She would not listen to a conversation of him not completing his education so he worked and attended TU night school, graduating with his law degree.

Margaret and Buddy Inhofe have two daughters, Melinda and Marilyn. They have also been blessed with six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren, with number nine due in July.

Margaret supported her husband throughout his entire business career. He became President of Mid-Continent Casualty Co. in 1970, and she was always at his side, hosting events and traveling with him at a moment's notice. After his retirement in 1990, the couple moved to South Padre Island, Texas.

Margaret attended many OMA functions when she was young. She has been a constant supporter of the OMA Alumni Association throughout her life. She co-hosts a yearly reunion in South Padre with her husband and is involved in other annual alumni association events throughout the year.



**CHARLOTTE LITTLE** grew up in northern California where she attended Hayward and Tennyson high schools. Charlotte met her husband Reciel (Gene) Little, an officer in the Navy and 1956 graduate of Oklahoma Military Academy, while she was in high school. The two were married shortly after her graduation. Charlotte spent the next 15 years as both mother and homemaker. She

then decided to get a temporary job that lasted seventeen years. She was a store supervisor, office manager and assistant store manager.

Upon Gene's retirement, the couple moved to Oklahoma to be closer to his parents and three brothers. After attending their first OMA Alumni Reunion, Gene was asked if he would consider being the museum curator. Charlotte says her husband taking the position has been a wonderful opportunity for them both. Besides displaying memories of OMA, she has heard great stories from the amazing cadets.

Charlotte's first love has been quilting. She left behind an amazing quilting guild in California and has been fortunate to find an equally amazing guild in Pryor. They not only do quilting for themselves but also make quilts of valor for returning soldiers. Charlotte says she has a very satisfying retirement life.

Gene and Charlotte Little have two sons, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



**NORMA ADAMS MORRISON** grew up in Claremore, Oklahoma, and attended Claremore High School. During her junior year in high school she attended a dance with her friends at Oklahoma Military Academy where she met OMA college freshman, Jim Morrison, OMA class of 1952. Norma says they met on a blind date and she's been blind ever since.

On their second date Norma invited Jim Morrison to a family dinner at her grandmother's house. He fell in love with her grandmother's homemade noodles and also with Norma in anticipation of her making them. Norma says she is still working on the noodles. Norma married Jim in 1955.

Norma attended William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri, a college for women, during her freshman year. She then transferred to Oklahoma University where she eventually finished college by summer courses and correspondence. Norma graduated from OU in 1959.

Norma and Jim have been an active part of Rogers State University and have supported the campus during numerous developments. Both have been exceedingly generous over the years and have gifted the university with funds to support many projects, including the renovation of the Health Sciences Building and construction of the Chapman Dining Center in 2014. However, their major focus is assisting students who need financial aid. Therefore the two established the Jim and Norma Morrison Scholarship Endowment.

Norma has volunteered in numerous non-profit organizations over the years including the Assistance League of Tulsa and Prime Time Treasures. Currently Norma volunteers with the Assistance League of Tulsa which she joined in 1993. The organization sells quality donations in a thrift store called Bargains and all profits are used to benefit those in need. Norma is currently involved in the Operation School Bell branch of the league. This division helps clothe a few thousand children each year from Tulsa and the surrounding areas. The organization is currently branching out to include supplies for art, music, and other pursuits.

Norma and Jim have one daughter, Karen Morrison who graduated from OU and then went on to graduate from Notre Dame Law School. She was an assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Colorado and the Associate Athletic Director for almost ten years. She went to work for the NCAA as the Director for Gender Equity and Initiative. Presently, she is the Chief Diversification Officer at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. This is one of the top diversification divisions in the nation. Karen has one son, Max, who is 12 years old.



**FRANK W. PODPECHAN** was born in 1927 in Kansas to a family of coal miners. His parents moved to Tulsa two years later and founded the Hickory Coal Company. In 1937, the family moved to Claremore and Podpechan attended Claremore High School, graduating in 1945. He enrolled in Oklahoma A&M College, now known as Oklahoma State University and graduated in 1950.

Podpechan joined the 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National Guard in 1948 where he met many Oklahoma Military Academy graduates. He became friends with Gary Henry '50, Wade Medbery '53, Bud Inhofe '50, Barton Broadhead '50, and Carrol Jackson '50. He was eventually sent to Korea, where he remained until April

1952. Podpechan was discharged from the army a month later.

After returning home from war, Podpechan started working for the Stanolind Oil and Gas Company in west Texas and was later transferred to New Mexico in 1953 and then to Texas with Stanolind Oil and Gas Division Office. In 1957, Podpechan and a friend, Steve Helbing, joined together and created Helbing and Podpechan, an oil and gas company. Six years later the two dissolved their partnership and Podpechan accepted a position with the Redfern Development Corporation and Flag Oil Corporation in Midland, Texas. In October 1960, Podpechan earned his piloting license to cut down travel time for his job.

In 1968, Podpechan moved his family to Calgary, Alberta, Canada to manage the Mesa Petroleum Corporation. He returned to Claremore a year later. In 1970, he formed the Sierra Coal Corporation which then merged with an oil and gas company, which was later renamed Skye Resources Ltd. in 1973. The company merged with Campbell Resources, Inc. in 1982. In 1986, Podpechan traded his interest in Campbell Resources and formed the Hickory Coal Corporation. That same year, he purchased a 1970 model Cessna 182 plane. His wife, Roxey, later gained her own pilot's license and the two flew together often. In 1987, he bought his children's shares of the Claremont Corporation and became the sole owner of the company.

Frank Podpechan married Jane McMillian in August 1950. Together they had four children, Mary Fran, Joe, Luanne, and Jan. All four children attended OSU. The couple divorced in 1982. In 1988, Podpechan married Roxey Nelson who had three children, Ranee, Todd, and Tanna, from a previous marriage. Podpechan also has four grandsons, and four great-grandchildren. Roxey Podpechan passed away January 17, 2016 in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Podpechan is now semi-retired though he remains active in the oil and gas business. He frequently attends many of the annual OMA Alumni reunions held at Rogers State University in June, and often competes in the golf tournament. He is on the board of the Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts in Tulsa.



**PEGGY TOWNLEY RICE** was raised on a farm in Osage County and graduated from Burbank High School in Burbank, Oklahoma. Her studies continued at numerous institutions, including the Ponca City Business College and Oklahoma State University. She completed courses in School of Bank Marketing, Capital Resource Institute, and the

American Economic Development Council. She holds certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional.

Prior to becoming Rogers State University's First Lady in 2008, Rice had an extensive career in banking, finance and public trusts. In 1992, she co-founded the Small Business Capital Corporation and continues to serve as its President and CEO, as well as being a member of the Board of Directors. Her previous employment includes positions as Senior Vice President with BancFirst Stillwater, Director of Small Business Development and Finance for the Metro Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of the Tulsa Industrial Authority.

Rice currently serves on the RCB Bank Board of Directors and has previously served on boards of the Claremore Chamber of Commerce, RSU Innovation Center, CASA, American Red Cross, Green Country Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Oklahoma Private Enterprise Forum, and Tulsa World Trade Association. She is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class XII.

In 1996, Rice was named the National Small Business Administration's Financial Advocate of the Year by President Bill Clinton and in 2013, the Journal Record recognized her as a "50 Making a Difference" honoree.



#### **JENNIFER CONNER WILLIAMS**

was born on "Veterans Day" November 11, 1957 in Artesia, California. She moved to Norman, Oklahoma in 1971 where she attended Norman High School. She graduated high school in 1975 and returned to Southern California.

Jennifer majored in psychology during college but she changed direction to attend cosmetology school. She graduated with an advanced degree in 1979.

Two years later in 1981, Jennifer returned to Oklahoma and met her Oklahoma Military Academy "Cadet" Billie G. Williams, class of 1969. The two married in November 1982 and later opened "Cutz Salon" in 1984 in Norman, Oklahoma where Jennifer has celebrated many happy years in business.

Jennifer and Billie raised four children together and have been blessed with two grandchildren. The couple currently lives in Noble, Oklahoma.



**JOHN WOOLEY** is a writer, lecturer, and radio host who specializes in the movies, literature, and music of the 1930s and '40s as well as other pop-culture history.

He has written, co-written, or edited more than 30 books, including *"Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park,"* commissioned by the Rogers County Historical Society; *"Voices from the Hill,"* the history of

Oklahoma Military Academy; the critically acclaimed biography of moviemaker Wes Craven, *"The Man and His Nightmares;"* the pulp-magazine-story collection *"Hard-Boiled Christmas Stories;"* and *"Shot in Oklahoma,"* a look at Sooner State-lensed pictures that was named Best Book on Oklahoma History for 2011 by the Oklahoma Historical Society. He was also guest curator for an Oklahoma History Center exhibit, *Oklahoma@ the Movies.*

Wooley has scripted a number of documentaries, including the Learning Channel special *"Hauntings across America"* and the recent *"Oklahoma Military Academy: The West Point of the Southwest."* He also wrote the made-for-TV feature *"Dan Turner — Hollywood Detective,"* starring Marc Singer, Tracy Scoggins, and Arte Johnson, as well as the award-winning independent movie *"Cafe Purgatory."*

An entertainment writer for the *Tulsa World* newspaper for 23 years (1983-2006), Wooley has seen his articles and interviews appear in a wide range of other publications, from *TV Guide* to the horror-movie magazine *Fangoria*, for which he wrote more than 100 pieces.

He currently hosts the public-radio series *Swing on This*, co-hosts the Forgotten Horrors podcasts, and serves as a contributing editor and columnist for *Oklahoma Magazine.* He co-executively-produced, co-produced, co-wrote, and co-hosted the KRSU-TV series *Film Noir Theatre*, which began its public-television run in late 2014.

Wooley's writing has earned him induction into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Cartoonists Hall of Fame, and, most recently, the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

## OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 2016 PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The inaugural Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association's President's Award was presented at the 2015 Reunion to Dr. Worth Gross '35. This award is given to those special individuals who have contributed significantly either to the OMA Alumni Association or made a substantial impact in their field of choice, local community or in business.

According to Phil Goldfarb '69, President of the OMA Alumni Association, "This award was created to recognize those extraordinary individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their endeavors and exemplify the OMA credo of Courage, Loyalty and Honor." The winners of the award will be presented at the 2016 Reunion lunch on Saturday, June 11.



**CHARLES EMERSON** attended Oklahoma Military Academy for two and a half years, graduating from high school in 1956 and spending his first semester of college at OMA. He subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Oklahoma.

From 1957-1960, he served in the U.S. Army Security Agency, stationed in Germany and England. Upon completion of his military service, Emerson worked at Tinker Air Force Base. He became highly skilled in the operation and programming of IBM and RCA computers, and during the next 30 years, he worked in computer information systems, developing, and programming computers for several companies, including AT&T and Lucent. During his business career, he also taught computer science courses at the university level.

Emerson is the man behind the original OMA DVD and now the OMA Flash Drive, which has an enormous amount of information contained in it, or "everything that you want to know about OMA but were afraid to ask."

He is a 2008 Distinguished Alumni and lives in Oklahoma City where he is constantly updating the OMA Flash Drive with new information almost on a weekly basis.



**JAMES R. (HAP) SHARP '45**, passed away May 11, 1992 in San Martin De Los Ades, Argentina. He was the son of Jim and Lib Sharp, residing at Greenhill Farm in Tulsa where they owned nationally acclaimed show horses and cattle. Sharp attended Cascia Hall Preparatory School in Tulsa, and later attended Junior College at Oklahoma Military Academy, where he was a Company Cadet Captain.

After 42 months without a break, he graduated in 1945. He went on to attend the University of Oklahoma and then moved to Midland, Texas where he founded Sharp Drilling Company, a successful drilling firm with oil and gas holdings. He acquired extensive land ownings in Argentina, Chile, England, and Spain.

Sharp was a national record holder in hydroplane boat racing and a national champion sports car driver, winning several international titles. He was co-developer and co-driver of the Chaparral Race Car, which won the national championship. He was also co-driver of a 1968 Corvette with David Morgan '46 where they won the International Race of 12 Hours, at Sebring, Florida.

Later, Sharp went on to play polo, which he learned at OMA. He played in the USA, England, Spain, and Argentina, winning the U.S. Open, the British Open, the Sunshine League in Boca Raton, Florida, the Cowdray Park Gold Cup, the Spanish Kings Cup, the Sotogrande Gold Cup, as well as other trophies in the USA and Europe.

Sharp passed away in 1992 and is survived by daughters, Rosemary Wayman, Betsy Graham and son, Jim Sharp. They continue to tend to the family holdings in Argentina, England, and the USA.



**GLENN WRIGHT '53**, was born and raised in Tulsa and attended Lee Elementary and Horace Mann Jr High. When ninth grade rolled around, his father thought military school would be a good experience, so Wright was sent to Oklahoma Military Academy. He spent ninth and tenth grade at OMA and then went on to graduate from Tulsa Central High School.

Wright always said the OMA experience was enlightening for a boy his age. The military way of life made a big impression, especially the Rabbit period. He carried the military etiquette received at OMA with him throughout his life. Wright did not attend OMA long enough to receive a rank, but he did learn respect, study habits and time management. By the time he left, he carried with him many good points that had a way of coming to the surface as he continued life.

Wright worked during the summers while he was in high school. He started attending Oklahoma University in the fall of 1955. That summer, he attended the U.S. Army reserve camp at Ft. Sill. After reserve camp, Wright worked as a roustabout for Independent Oil Co. and then went on to attend the University of Tulsa for his sophomore year. In February of that year, Wright swept the love of his life off her feet and the two married.

Wright spent six years in the active reserve of the Army and Air Force. He also spent two years inactive.

Wright worked for Sunray Mid-Continent Oil Co. in Tulsa in 1957 and was later transferred to their office in Abilene, Texas. While there, he completed his college education in night school at Harden Simmons University. He was transferred to Oklahoma City as a landman for the same oil company in 1960.

The following year, Wright went to work for the Frank Wheatley Co. and was transferred to Long Beach to open an office, a position which required extensive traveling. Wheatley transferred him back to the Tulsa office in 1967 until the middle of 1971 when he became President of Heavy Construction Equipment Dealership for cranes etc. Wright sold that company in 1974 and purchased his own manufacturing company in storage and processing. He later sold the company and started working for Tulsa Zoo Friends.

Wright was a founding member of the Tulsa Air and Space Museum and Planetarium, sat on the Board of Directors, and then spent three years as Executive Director. After leaving the Executive Director position of the Air and Space Museum, he spent the last four years in the oil business selling oil interest investments.

Glenn Wright recently passed away on April 11, 2016.

# WE WERE ALL ONCE RABBITS

## OMA ALUMNI REUNION | JUNE 10-11, 2016

### FRIDAY | JUNE 10

- 8:00 a.m. **REUNION REGISTRATION**  
Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum
- 9:00 a.m. **ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC**  
Heritage Hills Golf Course 18 Hole Tournament
- 9:00 a.m. **Shotgun Start Begins • \$65** (lunch included)
- 11:45 a.m. - **Golf Lunch • \$15** (lunch only)  
1:45 p.m. *Lunch is also available for alumni and guests not participating in golf.*
- 11:30 a.m. **LADIES' LUNCHEON • \$25**  
*Hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice  
President's Residence, RSU Campus  
Reservation required with maximum 40*
- 4:00 p.m. **OVERVIEW OF THE OMA "FLASH DRIVE"**  
*Presented by Charles Emerson '56  
Centennial Center Conference Room  
2nd Floor*
- 5:30 p.m. **REUNION OPENING RECEPTION • \$30**  
RSU Centennial Center Ballroom  
*Background music by OMA Alumni Lonnie Stevans '71 and Bill Ramsay '61*
- 6:30 p.m. **"RABBIT TALES"**  
RSU Centennial Center Ballroom  
*Alumni tell their best "Rabbit Stories" in 60 seconds*

### SATURDAY | JUNE 11

- 8:00 a.m. **REUNION REGISTRATION**  
Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum  
*Coffee and pastries*
- 9:15 a.m. **"DRILL AND CEREMONY EXHIBITION"**  
RSU GOLD MILITARY STUDENTS  
Front of Campus between Flag Pole and Will Rogers Auditorium
- 9:30 a.m. **ALUMNI CEREMONIES • \$35** (No charge for any alumnus attending his first reunion)  
Will Rogers Auditorium
- HONORING OMA'S RECENTLY DECEASED ALUMNI
  - COLOR GUARD PRESENTED BY THE RSU GUARD OFFICER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (GOLD) PROGRAM STUDENTS
  - DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND HALL OF FAME CEREMONY
- 11:30 a.m. **ALUMNI LUNCHEON**  
Centennial Center  
*Special Guests: RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program military students*
- Recognition of 2016 OMA Honorary Cadets
  - "Boots Back on the Hill" Scholarships for GOLD Students
  - Unveiling of NFL Super Bowl Football
  - Unveiling of the Eisenhower statue
- Immediately Following Luncheon **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
Chapman Dining Hall  
*Display of Military Artifacts by several individuals including Dean Williams III (grandson of Dean Williams I '29) and Dewey Wilson '66*
- 5:30 p.m. **RECEPTION, DINNER AND DANCE • \$40**  
RSU Centennial Center Ballroom  
*"Grand March" First time since OMA Closed in 1971.*
- 7:30 p.m. **BAND: RENDEVOUX**  
RSU Centennial Center Ballroom

*Call Danette Boyle to register today!*

# 918-343-6888

or email: [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu)

*Cash, Check or credit card accepted.*



*The RSU GOLD Program students participate in a drill in the RSU Conservation Reserve.*

## GUARD OFFICER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (GOLD) PROGRAM REMAINS ON THE HILL!

Even after 45 years since OMA's closing, its alumni continue its strong traditions by making history and having a positive impact. As most of you are aware, Rogers State University and the OMA Alumni Association (in conjunction with the Oklahoma National Guard) were instrumental in establishing a Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) program on the campus at Rogers State University. The GOLD program is a major factor in providing a path for young men and women of high character to serve in the Oklahoma National Guard as officers as they continue the OMA legacy and military contribution.

Recently, when the GOLD program was suddenly threatened with closure as a result of military budget cuts, the OMA Alumni Association and Rogers State University quickly engaged in negotiations with the Oklahoma National Guard to keep the program alive at RSU. The RSU GOLD Program will continue its military mission thanks to the efforts spearheaded by OMA Alumni President Phil Goldfarb, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, RSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Richard Beck, OMA Alumni Association Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle and the

Oklahoma National Guard, including Major General Robbie L. Asher, Colonel Cynthia K. Tinkham, Major Michael Deneen, and Major Casey Reed. Maintaining the OMA legacy by saving the RSU GOLD program would not have been feasible without the direct support of the OMA Alumni Association...OUR Alumni Association. What better way for the enrichment and continuance of OMA's legacy than to continue OMA's strong military tradition?

We hope you will take some time at this year's reunion to learn more about the GOLD program and to meet some of the outstanding students we support. At the luncheon this year, you will hear firsthand how your contributions to the GOLD program scholarship program make such a critical difference in the lives of our deserving cadets as the winning paper of this year's writing contest is presented.

You can be proud not only for having attended OMA, but also for making continuing contributions that will have positive implications long into the future. Each alumnus has a footprint in OMA's legacy that is being perpetuated through the RSU GOLD program cadets.

### AN INVITATION TO OUR LEGACY

"Due to the knowledge and experiences I gained at OMA, my groundwork was set for future successes. I look forward to attending the 2016 OMA Reunion, nearly 50 years since I graduated from OMA. I hope others will consider attending in June '16, so we can reunite." – **Chuck "Gus" Gustafson III '67**

"Although I have attended thirty-nine out of the forty reunions held since the OMA Alumni Association was reactivated, I always look forward to the next one. During the coming reunion, the GOLD cadets will participate in the first Grand March held on our campus in nearly a half century! Come join us! See old friends you've missed – perhaps for years. Renew other friendships. I'll see you there!" – **Jim Elder '67**

*If you would like to make a contribution to support scholarships for students in the RSU Guard Officer Leadership and Development (GOLD) Program or would like to make a contribution to the OMA Alumni Association to help with the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion to make it the best one ever, please call Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888.*

## OMA ALUMNI SALUTE TO LT. GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTS



Lt. General William E. Potts, a native of Heavener, Oklahoma attended the Oklahoma Military Academy with distinction and honor from 1937 to 1941. Upon his graduation from the Academy, he entered the armed forces of the United States in service to his country and in the course of his service suffered grievous wounds in battle.

During his 33 years of military service his gallantry, dedication and devotion to duty were recognized by the awarding to him of fifty decorations from seven nations.

His lifetime of dedicated and selfless service has brought distinction, not only to himself, but also to Rogers State University and to the legacy and memory of Oklahoma Military Academy.

In recognition of and appreciation for this lifetime of service, Lt. General William E. Potts was selected as the first inductee into the Oklahoma Military Academy Hall of Fame

and was inducted on June 16, 1984. Lt. General William Potts was the highest ranking alumnus from OMA.

General Potts passed away on August 17, 2005 and shortly after that time the OMA Alumni Association and RSU established the prestigious Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence.

### POTTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

**JAMES H. MORRISON '52**

*will receive the*

**2016 Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence**

*June 11 at the OMA Alumni Reunion*

### PAST POTTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

**DR. LARRY RICE (2013)**

**DR. RICHARD H. MOSIER (2012)**

**MR. GENE LITTLE (2011)**

**DR. DANETTE BOYLE (2007)**

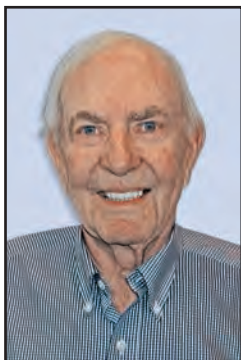
**COLONEL JOHN HORNE (2007)**



Phillip D. Adams '68 recently returned to "The Hill" to visit with OMA Alumni Executive Director, Dr. Danette Boyle, Jim Elder '67, and Dr. Larry Rice, RSU President.

The 1967 *Vedette* football photo caption states, "Phil Adams makes one of his many catches."

## EISENHOWER SCULPTURE GIVEN TO THE OMA MUSEUM



Robert L. Dean Jr., '48 has given to the OMA Museum a two-foot bronze scale model of his General Dwight D. Eisenhower sculpture. The full-sized sculptures are nine feet tall and can be found on the grounds of West Point, the Eisenhower Library in Dennison, Texas and at the U.S. Embassy in London. Dean is a 1953 graduate of the U.S. Army Military Academy

at West Point and was named an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 2015.

After receiving the commission for the monument, Dean was offered one of Eisenhower's actual uniforms as a model by son John for use in the sculpture, which depicts the general in his familiar World War II "Eisenhower Jacket."

Dean molded the wax model at his home in Pennsylvania and cast the bronze statue in Italy before the monument was unveiled in May 1983.

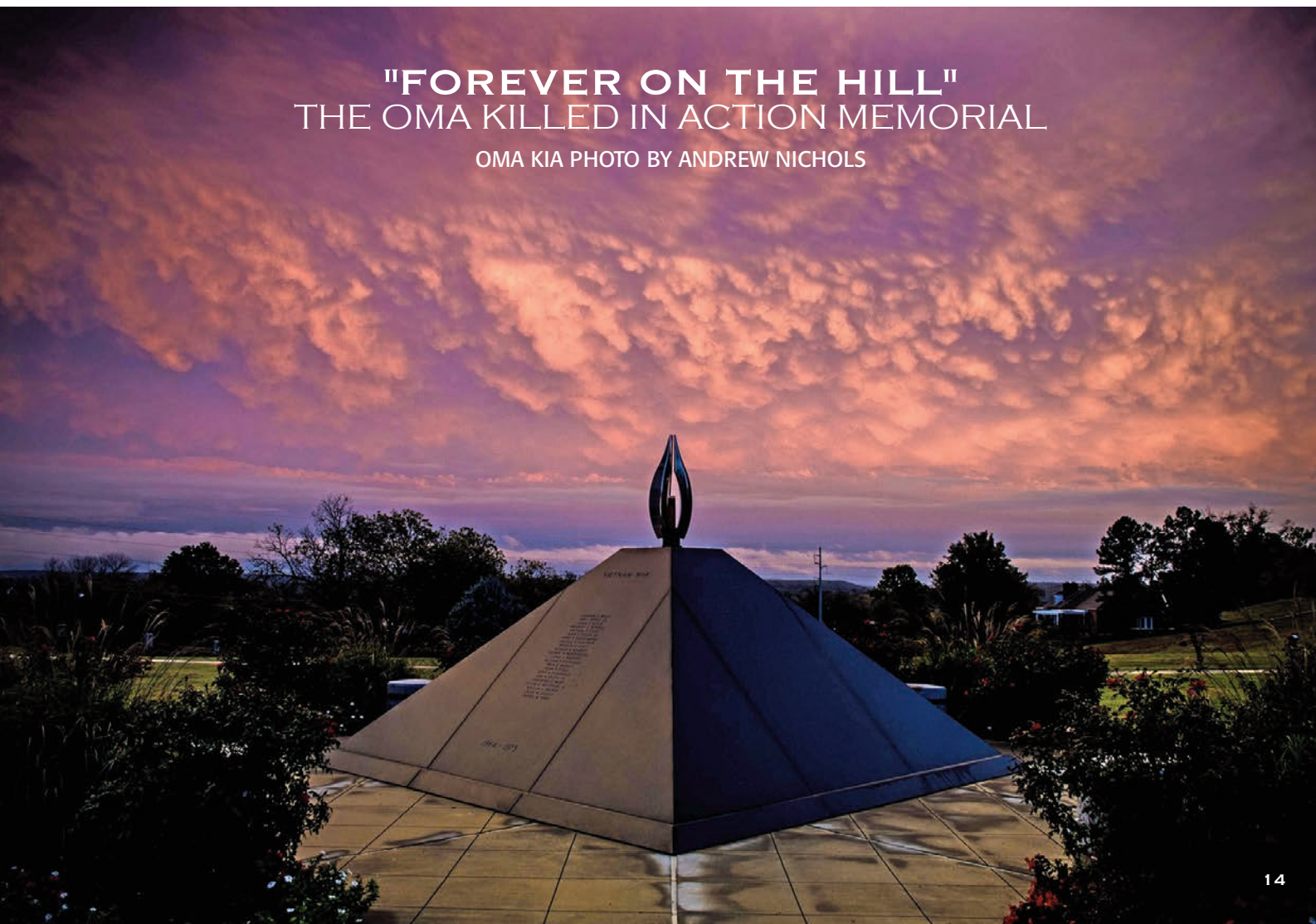
His other major works include two statues of General Douglas MacArthur and one of General George S. Patton. His portrait sculpture works include those of Vince Lombardi, Helen Keller, and Will Rogers.

This statue will be a terrific addition to the OMA Museum and we will unveil it at the 2016 Reunion on June 11 during the Saturday luncheon.



## "FOREVER ON THE HILL" THE OMA KILLED IN ACTION MEMORIAL

OMA KIA PHOTO BY ANDREW NICHOLS





## ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY

OMA Alumni Office  
1701 West Will Rogers Boulevard  
Claremore, OK 74017-3252

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CLAREMORE, OK  
PERMIT NO. 185

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### LODGING INFORMATION FOR THE CLAREMORE AREA

Please make your reservations early to assure availability.

#### COMFORT INN

Special OMA Alumni Rate - \$72.00 + tax  
1720 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd. – Claremore, OK  
918-343-3297 | 800-521-2121 (toll free)  
GM.OK207@choicehotels.com

#### HAMPTON INN & SUITES\*

Special OMA Alumni Rate - \$89.00 + tax  
1811 S. Scissortail Ave – Claremore, OK  
918-965-1360 | 800-426-7866 (toll free)  
www.hamptoninn.com

\*New Hotels

#### HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES\*

Special OMA Alumni Rate - \$79.00 + tax  
1400 W. Country Club – Claremore, OK  
918-283-4877 | 800-465-4329 (toll free)  
www.holidayinnexpress.com

#### LA QUINTA INN & SUITES\*

Special OMA Alumni Rate - \$75.00 + tax  
774 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd – Claremore, OK  
918-965-1877 | 800-753-3757 (toll free)  
www.LQ.com

#### MICROTEL INN & SUITES

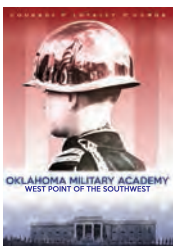
10600 E Mallard Lake Rd – Claremore, OK  
918-343-2868  
www.microtelinn.com

#### SUPER 8

1100 E. Will Rogers Blvd. – Claremore, OK  
918-341-2323 | 866-302-6438 (toll free)  
www.super8.com

#### WILL ROGERS INN

940 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd. – Claremore, OK  
918-341-4410 | 800-644-9455 (toll free)  
www.willrogersinn.com



## OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY WEST POINT OF THE SOUTHWEST

**DVD Only \$20** Cash, check or credit card accepted.

Call Danette Boyle to order a copy today! **918-343-6888** or email: **dboyle@rsu.edu**